

Appointment in KVS

4653. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 417, given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd March, 2001 and state:

- (a) the dates when the said six candidates had been offered appointments and dates on which the other ones of different categories had been given appointments in Kendriya Vidyalayas; and
- (b) the details if needs and urgency for offering appointments to the said six candidates, ahead of the remaining ones?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Difference between urban and rural areas in literacy rate

4654. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a big difference between the urban and rural areas in regard to literacy rate;
- (b) if so, the efforts made by Government to reduce the difference during the last three years;
- (c) whether any assistance has been provided for bridging or reducing this difference during the same period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to NFHS-2, 1998 released in November, 2000, the literacy rate is 80.1 per cent in urban areas and 56.7 per cent in rural areas. The urban-rural differential has reduced from 28.4 per cent in 1991 to 23.4 per cent in 1998.

(b) to (e) During 1991-98 period, rural literacy rate has increased by 12 per cent as against the urban literacy rate of 7 per cent.

Monthly Monitoring Meetings are held to critically review the progress of literacy campaigns in the States with special focus on illiteracy prone rural areas.

A new approach has been adopted since 1st April, 2000 with the following features to ensure effective implementation of literacy programmes particularly in rural areas:

- (i) National Literacy Mission (NLM) parameters have been revised and financial norms enhanced.
- (ii) Decentralization and delegation of financial and administrative powers to State Literacy Mission Authorities (SLMAs).
- (iii) The integrated Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) and Post Literacy Programmes (PLP) approach to achieve continuity, efficiency and convergence.
- (iv) Under Continuing Education Programme neo literates are provided opportunities for skill development, income generating programmes and individual interest promotion programmes. Centres also work for removal of residual illiteracy.
- (v) Jan Shikshan Sansthan to provide vocational and technical skills especially in rural areas.

Financial assistance to State run universities

4655. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what special financial assistance/measures are contemplated for State run universities;

(b) whether Government have no plan to take-over the State universities where there is no Central Universities run by Government of India; and

(c) the total amount of financial assistance granted by UGC to Manipur University during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the financial assistance expected to be made available during 2001-2002?